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Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED

FEB 09 2001

Arizona Corporation Commission
RE. Southwest Gas Rate Increase
Docket # ~~_____~~

DOCKETED BY [Signature]

Dear Commissioners,

I own and operate a family farm in the Willow Area. I own 625 acres and also rent some land. We raise barley, corn, and Pinto beans.

All of our farmland is irrigated and we use natural gas to run engines that pump our well water. Water costs are one of our biggest expenses and one that we do everything we can to minimize. We irrigate with high-efficiency, low-pressure center-pivot sprinklers which eliminate wasteful runoff.

Any increase in natural gas prices will be hard to deal with but an increase from .39607/therm to .65580/therm will be very hard to handle.

It should be noted that the irrigation season in south-eastern Arizona is mainly from April through August,

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which is during the warmest part of the year so the heating load is at its minimum. We use little or no gas from September through March, In fact this year, with the wetfall, we haven't used any gas since mid-September of 2000.

I understand that Southwest Gas is using the September-November 2000 period as the period to justify this increase, not only is this the winter heating season, but gas prices have decreased quite a bit since then. Gas futures for this coming summer are also lower than current month prices.

I realize that market prices of natural gas have increased and thus Southwest Gas has increased costs, but as our use is during the summer and as prices of gas are continuing to decrease I think any increase in our rates should be significantly smaller than the one proposed.

Thank You for your Consideration,
Red B. Hill